

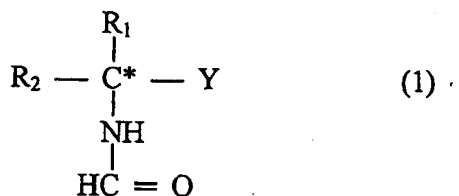
6/19/2001

AMENDMENT

Please replace presently pending claims 1-11 with the following claims 1-11:

1. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound with enhanced optical purity which comprises contacting a mixture of the enantiomers of a chiral compound of formula 1

see Ser 1, 6-11



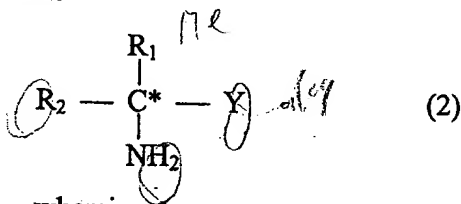
wherein:

R₁ represents an alkyl or an aryl group

R₂ represents H, an alkyl or an aryl group

Y represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, (CH₂)_nCOOH, (CH₂)_n-COOR, (CH₂)_n-CONRR', CH₂OH, or C ≡ N wherein R and R' independently represent H, an alkyl or aryl group, and n represents 0 or 1, with an enzyme having peptide deformylase activity and with a bivalent metal ion as a cofactor, wherein the metal is a metal of the groups 5-11 of the periodic system, wherein one of the enantiomers is selectively deformylated.

2. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound with enhanced optical purity which comprises contacting a mixture of the enantiomers of a chiral compound of formula 2



wherein:

R₁ represents an alkyl or an aryl group

R₂ represents H, an alkyl or an aryl group

Y represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, (CH₂)_nCOOH, (CH₂)_n-COOR, (CH₂)_n-CONRR', CH₂OH, or C ≡ N wherein R and R' represent H, an alkyl or aryl group, and n represents 0 or 1, with an enzyme having peptide deformylase activity, a bivalent metal ion as a